



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Summary May 18, 2009**

#### **Approval of April 20th Meeting Summary**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Andres Aviles. The April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was approved.

#### **Introductions**

Introductions of members and guests were made.

#### **Update from the Office of the County Executive and the Upcounty Regional Services Center Staff**

Catherine Matthews, Director, Upcounty Regional Services Center, reported on the following:

- Announcement of the Board's upcoming Annual Meeting and Reception on Monday, June 8, 2009 and the Board's retreat on Saturday, July 11, 2009 was made.
- Governor O'Malley joined County Executive Leggett to announce several key biotechnology milestones and unveiled the recommendations of the Maryland Life Sciences Advisory Board (LSAB). Key among the recommendations realized and announced was the new Maryland Biotechnology Center, which will have offices in Rockville and Baltimore. The Center will provide comprehensive and coordinated access to core resources and services that showcase and support biotechnology innovation and entrepreneurship throughout Maryland.
- As a part of the Executive's Smart Growth Initiative, the lease on the GE building is being finalized. The Smart Growth Initiative staff team is continuing talks with communities that will be/are being impacted.
- Health and Human Services announced that the H1N1 (swine flu) hotline has been closed, but urges the public to still be diligent about sanitary habits to avoid contamination.
- Recycling Awareness Week was the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>. There are various contests going on to get kids more involved in recycling awareness.
- Montgomery County will be kicking off the new Sister Cities Program on Thursday, June 4th, at 7:00 pm. Sister Cities is a nonprofit corporation that will develop partnerships between our County and similar jurisdictions in other countries. It will provide opportunities for county officials and citizens to experience and explore other cultures through long term community partnerships.

#### **Update from the County Council**

- Dale Tibbitts reported that Councilmember Elrich wanted to express his appreciation to the Board for allowing him to present his bus rapid transit proposal to them. UCAB will be kept informed of any progress.

**Presentation: "Budget Outlook for Next Year with Continued Deficit"**

Joseph Beach, Director of Office of Budget Management, presented on the budget for next year. Some cuts that the County is looking at are:

- A 5% cost reduction in public services
- 400 County positions to be abolished (half of those were filled).
- Reduction of the reserves by \$40 million

Luann Korona, from the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, urged the Board to send a letter of support for the Maryland Neighborhood Conservation Consortium (the Maryland Consortium). The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) is requesting NSP2 funding in the amount of \$36,000,000, which will be leveraged with over \$17 million in State, local and private resources to carry out activities that will result in 375 units of affordable housing in areas that have been heavily impacted by foreclosures. In addition, \$100,000 will also go toward children at risk programs, and possibly for the Germantown area.

**Report from the Chairperson**

Andres Aviles called for the election of FY10 Chairperson, First Vice-Chair, and Second Vice-Chair. The following members were offered by the Nominating Committee: Robert Thompson, Chair; Joel Cockrell, First Vice-Chair; and Robert Owolabi, Second Vice-Chair. George Donovan moved to close and accept the nominations and Matthew Leakan seconded. The nominations were accepted by Board members in a unanimous vote.

**Board's Position**

After an in-depth discussion, the Board took no position on the Consolidation/Reduction of Community Boards within the County.

**Committee and Liaison Reports**

*Land Use and Preservation Committee* – No report.

*Airpark Liaison* –No report.

*BlackRock Center for the Arts* – No report.

*Social Issues Committee* – No report.

*Housing Opportunities Commission Liaison* – No report.

*Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board Liaison* - No report.

*Transportation Committee* – No report.

*Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group (DFIG)* – No report.

*Speed Cameras* – No report

*Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee* – No report.

*Permitting Services Advisory Committee* – No report.

*Germantown Master Plan Community Advisory Committee* – No report.

**Community Comments**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

*Members present:* Andres Aviles, Bob Thompson, George Donovan, Joanne Atay, Heinz Bachmann, Terramika Bellamy, Juan Cardenas, Joel Cockrell, Matthew Leakan, Doug Noble, Robert Owolabi, Kevin Schwartz

*Staff present:* Catherine Matthews, Jewru Bandeh and Andrea Bush

*Guests:* Joseph Beach (OMB), Luann Korona (DHCA), Dale Tibbitts (County Council)